

□ **Cleaning** contaminated porous PTFE **membranes** - by sequential immersion in dil. aq. solns. of sodium hypochlorite and **mixed** surfactants with **water-rinse** and **air** -drying.

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Particulate matter collected on a porous PTFE membrane is removed by separate two-stage contact of the membrane with (A) a dil. aq. surfactant mixt. comprising anionic sulphonate surfactant (I), nonionic hydrocarbyl oxyethylated surfactant (II) and anionic alkyl diamine tetraacetate surfactant (III), and (B) dil. aq. sodium hypochlorite. Either (A) or (B) may be used first, and the **membrane is washed with** water after the first and/or second stage, before finally drying. Opt. the usea of (B) may be omitted.

USE/ADVANTAGE - Filters made of PTFE, esp. microporous material, are widely used in applications involving removal of particulate matter e.g. dirt, lint, bacterial and viruses, from air. The inventive process provides a simple economical method for removing the accumulated filtered material to enable re-use of the filter, without impairing its throughput or efficiency.

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